

liner 64. In this way, the physical sensation resulting from the leakage prevention element 20 is more easily noticed by the wearer.

[0056] In one aspect of the present disclosure, the leakage prevention element 20 can include barrier structures 26 and 27 to prevent body fluids from reaching the sides 34 of the feminine/incontinence pad 16, as illustrated in FIG. 2. The barrier structures 26 and 27 are longitudinally positioned between the longitudinal centerline 41 and the sides 34 of the feminine/incontinence pad 16 and preferably, are positioned parallel to the longitudinal centerline 41. By providing longitudinal barriers 26 and 27 inward of the sides 34, the lateral migration of body fluid insulting the bodyside liner 64 can be directed longitudinally along the barriers 26 and 27. Thus, greater utilization of the absorbent assembly 60 is achieved, lessening the likelihood of the feminine/incontinence pad 16 leaking from the sides 34.

[0057] One of the barriers 26, 27 is positioned laterally to the longitudinal centerline 41, between the longitudinal centerline 41 and the side 34 of the feminine/incontinence pad 16. The barrier 26 or 27 can reside on top of the bodyside liner 64 or desirably, is positioned between the bodyside liner 64 and the absorbent assembly 60. In a preferred aspect, the barrier 26 or 27 is positioned between the bodyside liner 64 and the absorbent assembly 60, and adjacent a first longitudinal side edge 34. This arrangement facilitates halting the lateral flow of absorbed liquids toward the side 34 through the absorbent assembly 60 as well as unabsorbed liquids across the bodyside liner 64. The barrier 26 or 27 can have a linear shape of a line or can be curved while remaining in the area between the longitudinal centerline 41 and the side 34. Desirably, each barrier 26, 27 is adjacent to an edge 34 following the contour of the absorbent assembly 60. The barriers 26, 27 can extend at least 10% of the length of the absorbent assembly 60. The barriers 26, 27 can otherwise extend over substantially the full length of the absorbent assembly 60.

[0058] As shown in FIG. 2, barrier elements 26 and 27 extend upwardly. The barriers 26, 27 can have a dry width ranging from about 3 millimeters to about 12 millimeters and preferably from about 3 millimeters to about 8 millimeters. The barriers 26, 27 can have a dry height ranging from about 2 millimeters to about 25 millimeters; preferably, from about 6 millimeters to about 15 millimeters; and most preferably, the barriers 26, 27 each has a dry height extending above the plane of the absorbent body-facing surface.

[0059] In another aspect of the present disclosure (not shown), the leakage prevention element 20 can be located within the absorbent assembly 60 or beneath the absorbent assembly 60. The leakage prevention element 20 can also be positioned on the flaps or in any other suitable position in the feminine/incontinence pad 16, as long as fluid communication is provided between the absorbent assembly 60 and the leakage prevention element 20. In addition, leakage prevention elements 20 can be positioned in more than one location within the feminine/incontinence pad 16. The leakage prevention element 20 can be maintained in position by bonding, using adhesives, ultrasonic bonds, or other suitable means.

[0060] One or more leakage prevention elements 20 can be disposed in the feminine/incontinence pad 16. A pair of leakage prevention elements 20 can be positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal centerline 41 and spaced apart from the intersection of the longitudinal and transverse centerlines 41, 43 along the transverse centerline 43. Similarly, a pair of leakage prevention elements 20 can be positioned on opposite

sides of the transverse centerline 43 and spaced apart from the intersection of the longitudinal and transverse centerlines 41, 43 along the longitudinal centerline 41. In another aspect, leakage prevention elements 20 can be positioned at each of the points at which a centerline meets the sides 34 of the absorbent assembly 60. In still another aspect, the leakage prevention elements 20 can be positioned completely or partially along the entire absorbent assembly perimeter 65. In yet another aspect, the leakage prevention elements 20 can be positioned completely or partially in a spaced-apart manner from the absorbent assembly perimeter 65.

[0061] The position and/or structure of the leakage prevention elements 20 should be such that the leakage prevention elements 20 come in contact with urine or other bodily waste as the absorbent assembly 60 fills, but prior to any leakage from the absorbent assembly 60. The leakage prevention elements 20 can be centered in the longitudinal direction 40. Alternatively, however, the leakage prevention elements 20 can be located off the transverse centerline 43 of the feminine/incontinence pad 16. Likewise, the leakage prevention elements 20 can be centered in the transverse direction 42 or can be located off the longitudinal centerline 41 of the feminine/incontinence pad 16.

[0062] Referring now to the drawings and in particular to FIG. 3, an absorbent article 10 of the present disclosure is representatively illustrated in the form of children's toilet training pants and is indicated in its entirety by the reference numeral 12. Absorbent articles 10 of this type are described in more detail in U.S. Pat. No. 5,681,298 issued to Brunner et al., the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference to the extent that they are consistent (i.e., not in conflict) herewith. The absorbent article 10 includes a leakage prevention element 20 that is adapted to block leakage from the article 10 and to create a distinct physical sensation to the wearer upon the absorbent article 10 nearing fullness, which can enhance a wearer's ability to recognize when leakage can be a threat.

[0063] With reference to FIG. 3, an absorbent article 10 formed according to the disclosure is shown for purposes of illustration as a disposable training pant 12 for use by a child. The training pant 12 includes a leakage prevention element 20 that is positioned and adapted to create a distinct physical sensation as the training pant 12 approaches fullness. Because the physical sensation is noticeable to the child, the child's ability to recognize when fullness is occurring will be enhanced. The training pant 12 will now be described in greater detail.

[0064] The training pant 12 is illustrated at an intermediate stage of assembly and in a flat and stretched condition in FIG. 3. The training pant 12 has opposite longitudinally spaced front and back end edges 130 and 132, and opposite side edges 134 extending between the end edges. The training pant 12 also defines longitudinal and transverse directions represented by arrows 140 and 142 in FIG. 3. The training pant 12 includes a longitudinal centerline 141 and a transverse centerline 143.

[0065] The finished training pant 12 becomes three-dimensional and thus defines a waist opening 146 and two leg openings 148 (FIG. 3). The finished training pant 12 has a crotch region 150 generally located between the leg openings 148. The crotch region 150 includes that portion of the training pant 12 that, when worn, is positioned between the legs of the wearer and covers the lower torso of the wearer. A front waist region 152 of the training pant 12 extends generally from the crotch region 150 to the front end edge 130, and a